



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lifeline Theatre KidSeries Presents *Mr. Popper's Penguins*,
World Premiere Musical Based on Novel by Richard and Florence Atwater
Opens October 25**

Plus Performance with Touch Tour and Audio Description on November 7, Performance with Open Captioning on November 14, and Relaxed/Sensory-Friendly Performance on November 21
And **Stories Come Alive! Hour** Workshops Every Saturday and Sunday During the Run

CHICAGO – Lifeline Theatre's KidSeries presents *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, a world premiere musical adaptation with script by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **Robert Kauzlaric** (Non-Equity Jeff Awards: New Adaptation, *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and *Neverwhere*), music and lyrics by **George Howe** (Non-Equity Jeff Award: New Work-Musical, *Queen Lucia*), and directed by Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **Paul S. Holmquist** (Non-Equity Jeff Award: Best Production-Play, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*; Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Director-Musical, *The Robber Bridegroom*, Griffin Theatre), based on the novel by **Richard and Florence Atwater**. This production is recommended for children ages five and up (children under two not permitted), and runs approximately one hour with no intermission. *Mr. Popper's Penguins* runs Saturday, Oct. 24 – Sunday, Nov. 29 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. **Press opening is Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.** Regular performance times are Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with an added relaxed/sensory-friendly performance on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. (Previews are Saturday, Oct. 24 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 25 at 11 a.m.) Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the Lifeline Theatre Box Office, 773.761.4477, or by visiting www.lifelinetheatre.com.

Accessible Performances: The Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. performance will feature a pre-show touch tour of the set at 10 a.m. and live audio description for patrons who are blind or have low vision. The Saturday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m. performance will feature open captioning for patrons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. And there will be a relaxed/sensory-friendly performance on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. for patrons with social and/or cognitive disabilities. For more information about Lifeline's accessibility services, please contact Accessibility Coordinator Erica Foster at 773.761.4477 x703 or at access@lifelinetheatre.com.

Money is tight and times are tough in the town of Stillwater. With no houses to paint till next spring, Mr. Popper is stuck at home daydreaming of adventures in far-off lands, while Mrs. Popper must scrimp and save just to put beans on the table. But with the unexpected arrival of a spirited penguin named Captain Cook, a new horizon opens before them. As a quiet partnership expands into a boisterous flock, the Poppers learn that there's no problem that can't be solved with steady determination, lots of love, and a dash of unconventionality. Join this offbeat family on an unforgettable adventure in a world premiere musical based on the 1938 classic by Richard and Florence Atwater.

PLUS: Join Lifeline Theatre every Saturday and Sunday at 12 p.m. during the run of *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (following the 11 a.m. show, or before the 1 p.m. show) for our **Stories Come Alive! Hour**. Children will enjoy an interactive storytelling session and on-your-feet theatre games. The cost is only \$5 per child. Reservations are recommended, though not required. Contact Lifeline Theatre at 773-761-4477 for more information.

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The complete cast and production team for *Mr. Popper's Penguins* includes:

- CAST:** Lifeline Theatre ensemble member **Heather Currie** (Mrs. Popper); with guest artists **Josh Bernaski** (Reporter, Admiral Drake & others), **Amanda Roeder** (Mrs. Callahan, Artie Greenbaum & others), and **Jonathan Schwart** (Mr. Popper). With understudies **Nate Buursma**, **Michael Mulhearn**, **Sierra Nibbe**, and **Emily Tucker**.
- CREW:** Lifeline Theatre ensemble members **Paul S. Holmquist** (Director) and **Robert Kauzlaric** (Adaptor); with guest artists **Benjamin W. Dawson** (Production Manager), **Sarah Espinoza** (Sound Designer), **Noah Ginex** (Puppet Designer), **George Howe** (Composer, Lyricist, Musical Director), **Izumi Inaba** (Costume Designer), **Jordan Kardasz** (Lighting Designer), **Sam Moryoussef** (Master Electrician), and **Joe Schermoly** (Scenic Designer, Technical Director).

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Lifeline Theatre also offers "Name Your Price" tickets a half-hour before the show (subject to availability), group rates and other discounts available upon request. A party room is available for full-service birthday and special event parties. Free parking is available at the designated lot west of the theatre (NE corner of Morse and Ravenswood) with free shuttle service before and after the show. Street parking is also available and Lifeline Theatre is handicapped and CTA accessible (Red Line Morse stop/busses).

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Now in its 33rd season, Lifeline Theatre is driven by a passion for story. Our ensemble process supports writers in the development of literary adaptations and new work, and our theatrical and educational programs foster a lifelong engagement with literature and the arts. A cultural anchor of Rogers Park, we are committed to deepening our connection to an ever-growing family of artists and audiences, both near and far. Lifeline Theatre – Big Stories, Up Close.

Lifeline Theatre's programs are partially supported by Alphawood Foundation; The Arts Work Fund; Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; a CityArts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; The Common Cup; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; FGМК LLC; Flex Print, Inc.; The Grover Hermann Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Netrix LLC; The Polk Bros. Foundation; S&C Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; and the annual support of businesses and individuals.